Setting up of river basin authority

2071. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in view of drought floods and drinking water shortage in different parts of the country, Government propose to set up a river basin authority for optimum utilisation of river water;

(b) if so, by when the proposed authority is likely to be set up;

(c) the manner in which the authority will make proper use of river waters; and

(d) the extent to which the different river water disputes are likely to be reduced due to this authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) The National Water Policy recognises the need for establishing appropriate organisations for the planned development and management of river basin as a whole. The issues relating to the form and role of organisation would need to be finalised in consultation with the co-basin States. Since the matter involves both the Centre and and States, and legislative measures would need to be taken, no specific time schedule can be indicated for setting up these organisations.

Delay in issue of passports

2072. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take certain new measures to cut down the delay in issuance of passports;

(b) whether it is a fact that non-computerisation of several passport offices is causing delay in issuing Passports;

(c) the details of the passport offices which are computerised and the details of the passport offices likely to be computerised during the current plan period; and

(d) the details of the steps Government propose to take to expedite the task in issuing passports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Suitable instructions have already been issued to Passport Offices to take following measures in order to out down delay in issue of passports;

(1) To check application for complete entries and supporting documents at the time of receipt in order to avoid protracted correspondence and delays;

(2) To issue reminders to concerned verifying authoirties in cases of delay beyond 6 weeks;

(3) Cases of delay beyond 3 months to be taken up with concerned State Governments through this Ministry and the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(b) Most of the delays are on account of delayed police verification reports from State police authorities and due to incomplete information furnished in the passport application forms.

(c) The passport offices at Bombay, Cochin, Delhi, Madras and Panaji have been computerised. It is proposed to computerise 11 more passport offices located at Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Calcutta, Chandigarh, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Patna and Srinagar during the current financial year.

(d) The subject of streamlining issue of passports is kept under constant review by the Government. The State Governments are being reminded at sufficiently high levels to expendite police verification reports.

Vacancies in Lok Sabha and various State Legislatures

2073. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vacancies in the Lok Sabha and various State Legislatures as on date with the names of the Constituencies;